

**New Wildlife Rehabilitation Rules for Oiled Birds**  
**May 20, 2004 Open House**  
**Meeting Notes**

**6:30 Open House**

Meeting attendees had the opportunity to view various display boards on the rule process and contents, talk with WDFW staff, and pick up materials for more information.

**7:05 Presentation**

Eric Larsen gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the new wildlife rehabilitation rules for oiled birds.

**7:15 Question and Answer Session**

- Q: What are the main differences between the old rules and these new rules?

A: The old rule focused on general rehabilitation of all animals; this rule is specific to oiled birds. The differences can be seen in what we term the “core elements.” These are procedures that, if you didn’t have them in place, would likely cause rehabilitation efforts to fail. Additional changes include the amount of space required for a facility to be used as a rehabilitation center, as well as caging requirements.

- Q: Detergent used to clean birds leaves them dry—what is done after that to combat this?

A: Washing birds occurs early. They are then dried. After that, they spend a number of days in pools in which preening occurs to realign their feathers. Dawn is often the detergent used to clean birds because of its ability to dissolve the oil.

- Q: How will these rules be initiated in a spill? For instance, is there a threshold standard?

A: No. These rules will be applied in the same manner whether we are dealing with one oiled bird or one thousand.

- Q: Are there differences in how an oil spill is dealt with if the spiller is known compared to being unknown?

A: No. Our focus is on rehabilitating the oiled wildlife, regardless of who the spiller is.

- Q: What do you do when PAWS is full? Do you use trailers owned by the state to set up additional rehabilitation facilities in the parking lot of PAWS?

A: That might be done, but there are other options as well. In other situations we have staggered the throughput of the birds. When we are dealing with big spills, WDFW mobilizes with contractors and volunteers.

- Q: Has WDFW been involved with ships from the north “blowing tanks”?

A: WDFW has not, but sister agencies to WDFW have been involved with these situations.

- Q: Will there be a special endorsement on the wildlife rehab permit needed for this?

A: No, not specifically. A permit will be conditioned on the capabilities of a facility to meet the standards, just like with any other permit conditions.

- Q: How are the capacities of rehabilitation facilities assessed?

A: WDFW has a well-defined process for how this is done for existing rehab facilities. For oiled bird rehab facilities, WDFW envisions using a checklist (or other similar mechanism) that assesses things like square footage and water issues.

- Q: Do wading birds get into the same kinds of problems as other birds in oil spills?

A: Yes, but wading birds are more difficult to deal with because they’re mobile, making them difficult to catch and treat.

**8:15 Adjourn**